

**Lebanon Board of Finance
Minutes of April 9, 2009
Regular Meeting**

Members Present: Liz Charron, Glen Coutu, Linda Finelli, Gregg Lafontaine, Betsy Petrie, Lori Wesolowski, Chuck Haralson(alt.), Phil Johnson(alt.), Albert Vertefeuille(alt.)

Item A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Liz Charron, Chairman.

Item B. Minutes of Previous Meetings

- a. **March 12, 2009 Regular Meeting:** Under F. New Business, No. 4., L. Charron recommended changing "A copy of the audit report" to "A copy of the letter from the auditor." B. Petrie moved to accept the March 12, 2009 regular meeting minutes as amended. Motion seconded by L. Wesolowski. Motion passes unanimously.
- b. **March 19, 2009 Special Meeting:** L. Finelli moved to accept the March 19, 2009 minutes. Motion seconded by G. Lafontaine. Motion passes with 5 ayes and 1 abstention-B.Petrie.
- c. **March 24, 2009 Special Meeting:** G. Coutu moved to accept the March 24, 2009 minutes. Motion seconded by L. Finelli. Motion passes with 5 ayes and 1 abstention-B.Petrie.
- d. **March 26, 2009 Special Meeting:** L. Finelli moved to accept the March 26, 2009 minutes. Motion seconded by L. Wesolowski. Motion passes with 5 ayes and 1 abstention-L. Charron.
- e. **April 2, 2009 Special Meeting:** L. Finelli moved to accept the April 2, 2009 minutes. Motioned seconded by L. Wesolowski. Motion passes unanimously.

Item C. Correspondence:

First Selectman Joyce Okonuk handed out correspondence on the Capital Improvement Plan. T. Valone handed out correspondence related to the electrical upgrade, transfer switch, and new well expenditures. All correspondence would be discussed under "New" or "Other" business.

Item D. Monthly Expenditures/Revenues/Payment of Bills

T. Valone informed the Board that approximately \$122,000 in tax revenue has been received in March. Revenues are expected from the Education and Transportation Accts. in May. Revenues have been received from the Mashantucket Pequot and the Utility Accts. Building revenues are up compared to the last four months, but still remain under budget. Expenditures remain the same. Monthly salary expenses in the Treasurer's budget will decrease once budget preparations for Town Meeting are complete. Snow removal is over budget by \$9,020 due to payroll, overtime and salt purchase expenses from the last snowstorm.

Item E. Old Business

- 1. **Consider and act on recommendations from the Banking Relationship Subcommittee.** Savings Institute is working with the finance department in getting the online banking set up. No further action is necessary at this time.
- 2. **Consider and act on budget process:**

i) Public Hearing

Public Hearing will be held on Monday, April 13, 2009 at 7:30pm. The Town budget will be discussed, followed by the Board of Education. The floor will be opened for questions and answers.

ii) Communication on impact of revaluation

The board discussed the impact of revaluation on the mil rate and what residents will see as an increase in their taxes related to higher property assessments. For purposes of the budget hearing, the board can only communicate the impact of the proposed budget.

iii) Research on delaying vote on budget to a special town meeting rather than the annual town meeting due to delayed information as a result of revaluation and state budget proposals.

A. Vertefeuille presented three options: 1) Go to town meeting with what information is available, if budget passes, then delay setting the mil rate. 2) Go to town meeting and explain that not all the numbers are available, the Board of Assessment Appeals is not finished and the state numbers are not available, adjourn meeting to another date. 3) Ask to vote budget down and explain why. After discussion, the Board agreed to move forward with the regular process of providing an estimated mil rate once the grand list is finalized.

F. New Business

1. Discuss and act on request from POCD.

The town of Lebanon is required by state statute to prepare a Plan of Conservation and Development every 10 years in order to be eligible for discretionary state funding. It was discussed that the Board of Finance should meet with the POCD committee after they have met with all other town boards and commissions, summarize the feedback and give the Board of Finance an overview to see what the financial impacts would be. Further information is needed as to the role of the BOF in the plan.

2. Discuss a request from FFA to make a presentation to our Board as part of their state competition for Ag Issues.

The FFA at the high school has a group that competes statewide with the potential to go to nationals. They have asked to do a 15-minute presentation in front of the Board of Finance to receive extra points towards their state competition, which would help them get to nationals. The Board would like to support the students and have agreed to the presentation at 7:00 on May 14, 2009 before the regular meeting.

G. Other

G. Coutu moved to add discussion of the Capital Improvement Plan. L. Finelli seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Capital improvements include Lakeshore Dr., Tobacco St., Leonard Bridge Rd., and Bascom Rd. projects. G. Coutu moved to ask the Board of Selectmen to bring the Capital Improvement Plan to the annual town meeting for approval. L. Finelli seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Electrical upgrade/transfer switch/new well.

Electrical: The FY2004 budget allowed for the following appropriations to Cap N/R for electrical upgrades at all three schools: \$16,000 LMHS/\$5,000 LMS/\$5,000 LES. In 2005, an additional \$5,000 was added for LMS and LES upgrades to make it \$16,000 LMHS/\$10,000 LMS/\$10,000 LES. No expenditures have been made against these appropriations. \$10,000 has been reallocated the Capital Reserve fund with \$16,000 available for reallocation.

Transfer switch: \$10,000 was appropriated in the FY2006 budget. The work was completed and paid for in August of 2007.

New well: \$20,000 was appropriated in the 2009-2010 budget. \$12,602 has been expended leaving a balance of \$7,398

Reallocation of these funds will be discussed further at the Tuesday, April 14th Special meeting.

H. Adjourn

L. Wesolowski moved to adjourn the meeting. G. Coutu seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:33pm..

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Drake
Recording Secretary